

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SECTO 09013 221836Z
ACTION SS-15

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FM USDEL SECRETARY PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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S E C R E T SECTO 09013

PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR THE PRESIDENT AND DR. BRZEZINSKIN ONLY
DEPARTMENT FOR MR. CHRISTOPHER ONLY

E. O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJECT: FIRST MEETING WITH PRC

THE TONE THROUGHOUT THE DAY WAS ONE OF EXPECTATION.
WHILE THE CHINESE LISTENED WITH POLITENESS AND AT CERTAIN
TIMES OBVIOUS INTEREST TO MY TWO AND ONE-HALF HOUR PRESENTATION
OF GLOBAL ISSUES, MY INTERLOCUTOR, FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG
HUA, SIGNALLED CLEARLY SEVERAL TIMES THAT HE WANTED
TO HEAR OUR VIEWS ON NORMALIZATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
WE WILL PRESENT IT TOMORROW MORNING.

THE MEETING SERVED A USEFUL PURPOSE, AS IT OFFERED
THE NEWLY RECONSTITUTED PRC LEADERSHIP A PICTURE OF THE
COMPLEXITY AND BREADTH OF OUR WORLDWIDE POLICIES THAT IS
DIFFERENT IN THRUST AND EMPHASIS FROM THE EARLIER DISCUSSIONS
THAT THEY HAVE HAD WITH USG VISITORS. ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE NOT
YET HAD A CHANCE TO RESPOND, THEIR INTEREST APPEARED TO
BE HIGHEST DURING MY COMMENTS ON KOREA, THE SOVIET UNION,
INDIA, AND OUR POLICY TO STRENGTHEN NATO. TOMORROW MORNING
I WILL COVER AFRICA, LATIN AMERICA, AND BRIEFLY GLOBAL ISSUES
BEFORE TURNING TO NORMALIZATION. DURING DINNER
TONIGHT, I ALSO DISCUSSED THE RHODESIAN SITUATION WITH
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HUANG HUA.

AT THE END OF THIS AFTERNOON PRESENTATION, HUANG
HUA SAID HE PROBABLY WOULD BE UNAVAILABLE TOMORROW
AFTERNOON. THEREFORE, HE ASKED, COULD WE MOVE ON TO THE
BILATERAL ISSUES TOMORROW MORNING STARTING EARLIER THAN
USUAL. THIS, COMING BEFORE HE HAD MADE ANY RESPONSE TO

MY PRESENTATION, SUGGESTS TO ME STRONGLY THAT THE PRC LEADERSHIP IS INTERESTED IN HEARING OUR VIEWS ON NORMALIZATION AND THEN PERHAPS ALLOWING THEMSELVES ENOUGH TIME TO REFLECT ON THEM BEFORE WE RESUME ON WEDNESDAY.

I WAS STRUCK TODAY BY THE MOOD IN PEKING. THREE DAYS AFTER THE 11TH PARTY CONGRESS, THE CITY IS STILL CELEBRATING, AND WHETHER BY DESIGN OR INADVERTENCE, THERE WERE LITERALLY SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND PEOPLE STILL PRADING IN AND OUT OF TIEN AN MEN SQUARE AS WE DROVE INTO TOWN. THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP IS CLEARLY ON A RISING CURVE OF CONFIDENCE. THEY FEEL AS THOUGH THEY HAVE COME THROUGH A LONG AND DIFFICULT STRUGGLE--THEIR EQUIVALENT OF AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN, ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY OF A VERY PECULIAR SORT. THIS IS REFLECTED IN EVERYTHING THEY ARE SAYING AND DOING, ALTHOUGH WHAT IT AUGERS FOR OUR NORMALIZATION PROPOSAL REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

DINNER TONIGHT WAS MARKED BY A TOAST THAT WAS AS MILD AS THEY COULD POSSIBLE DO IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES.

DURING THE DAY ALSO, THE-CHINESE RELEASED SELECTED EXCERPTS FROM CHAIRMAN HUA'S SPEECH TO THE PARTY CONGRESS. NOT COINCIDENTALLY, THEY CHOSE TO PUBLISH A STANDARD STATEMENT ON TAIWAN.

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WE MEET AT 9:30 TUESDAY MORNING PEKING TIME. I EXPECT TO FINISH THE GLOBAL DISCUSSION AND THEN INVITE THEIR COMMENTS. THEN WE WILL MOVE ON TO NORMALIZATION. VANCE

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